

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A truck tonneau for covering a bed of a truck, comprising:
 - a cover, including a portion that is at least translucent;
 - 5 the cover including at least two distinct layers, a first, polymeric layer and a second, fabric reinforcing layer;
 - the fabric reinforcing layer having a light diffusing pattern formed therein to enhance a light diffusing property of the cover; and
 - a fastener, coupleable to the cover and being configured to fasten the cover
 - 10 over the truck bed.
2. The tonneau of claim 1, wherein the fastener includes attachment means, coupled to at least one edge of the cover, for attaching the cover to the truck bed.
- 15 3. The tonneau of claim 2, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of: a snap, a hook-and-loop fastener, and a flexible perimeter flange.
4. The tonneau of claim 1, wherein the light diffusing pattern formed in the fabric reinforcing layer includes strands separated by gaps.
- 20 5. The tonneau of claim 4, wherein the strands are substantially opaque.
6. The tonneau of claim 1, wherein the first, polymeric layer has a textured pattern formed in a surface thereon, the textured pattern further enhancing the light diffusing
- 25 property of the cover.

7. The tonneau of claim 1, wherein the cover is less than about 3 mm thick.

8. The tonneau of claim 7, wherein the cover has a thickness between about 0.5 mm and about 1.5 mm.

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9. The tonneau of claim 1, wherein the cover includes at least one decorative portion having a translucence value different than a translucence value of a remaining portion of the cover.

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10. The tonneau of claim 1, wherein the cover is flexible and has at least two configurations, a first, rolled configuration and a second, extended configuration.

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11. The tonneau of claim 1, further comprising a light source, disposable between the cover and the truck bed, the light source being configured to impart a glowing appearance to the cover.

12. A tonneau system for covering a bed of a truck, comprising:

a cover, including a portion that is at least translucent, the cover being rollable from a first, rolled configuration to a second, extended configuration;

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a fastener, coupleable to at least one edge of the cover and being configured to fasten the cover over the truck bed;

at least one cross member, configured to be coupled to an upper portion of the truck bed to provide support to the cover to limit sag of the cover; and

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a light source, configured to be disposed within the truck bed, to transmit light to, and at least partially through, the cover to impart a glowing appearance to the cover.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the light source is disposed distally from the cover within the truck bed.

5 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the light source is disposed at least about 18 inches from the cover.

15 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the light source is disposed on a bottom surface of the truck bed.

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16. The system of claim 15, wherein the light source comprises an elongate light source disposed longitudinally along substantially a full length of the truck bed.

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17. The system of claim 13, wherein the light source includes:

an outer, elongate protective shell that is substantially transparent; and

in inner, elongate light extending along a length of the protective shell.

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18. The system of claim 17, wherein the elongate protective shell has a substantially hemispherical cross section, and wherein the light comprises light tape and is disposed within the protective shell in an arched, substantially hemispherical configuration.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein the cover includes at least two layers, a first, polymeric layer, and a second, fabric reinforcing layer, the fabric reinforcing layer having a light diffusing pattern formed therein to enhance a light diffusing quality of the cover.

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20. The system of claim 19, wherein the first, polymeric layer has a textured pattern formed in a surface thereon, the textured pattern further enhancing the light diffusing property of the cover.

5 21. The system of claim 19, wherein the cover is less than about 3 mm thick.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the cover has a thickness between about 0.5 mm and about 1.5 mm.

10 23. The system of claim 12, wherein the cover includes at least one decorative portion having a translucence value different than a translucence value of a remaining portion of the cover.

15 24. A method for providing an illuminated truck tonneau, comprising the steps of:
covering a bed of the truck with a cover having a portion that is at least translucent;
disposing a light source within the truck bed in a location below and distal from the cover; and
activating the light source to transmit light to and at least partially through the at least translucent cover.

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25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of disposing the light source within the truck includes the further step of disposing the light source at least about 18 inches from the cover.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of disposing the light source within the truck includes the further step of disposing the light source on a bottom surface of the truck bed.

5 27. The method of claim 24, wherein the light source comprises an elongate light source and wherein the step of disposing the light source within the truck includes the further step of disposing the light source longitudinally along substantially a full length of the truck bed.

10 28. The method of claim 24, wherein the light source includes:
 an outer, elongate protective shell that is substantially transparent; and
 in inner, elongate light extending along a length of the protective shell.

 29. The method of claim 24, wherein the cover includes at least two layers, a first,
15 polymeric layer, and a second, fabric reinforcing layer, the fabric reinforcing layer having a light diffusing pattern formed therein to enhance a light diffusing quality of the cover.

 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the first, polymeric layer has a textured pattern
 formed in a surface thereon, the textured pattern further enhancing the light diffusing
20 property of the cover.

 31. The method of claim 29, wherein the cover is less than about 3 mm thick.

 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the cover has a thickness between about 0.5
25 mm and about 1.5 mm.

33. The method of claim 24, wherein the cover has a first, rolled configuration, and a second, extended configuration.